

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. B-4344

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic 231 North Howard Street

and/or common Duke Brothers Shoes

**2. Location**

street & number 231 N. Howard Street ☐ not for publication

city, town Baltimore ☐ vicinity of ☐ congressional district Seventh

state Maryland ☐ county Baltimore

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name G&T Partnership

street & number 8201 Symphony Drive

city, town Baltimore ☐ telephone no.: MD 21208

state and zip code

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Courthouse ☐ liber 103

street & number 100 N. Calvert Street, Room 610 ☐ folio 198

city, town Baltimore ☐ state MD

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town ☐ state

## 7. Description

Survey No.

B-4344

**Condition**

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

**Check one**

☒ unaltered  
☐ altered

**Check one**

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Resource Count: 1

This circa 1890 commercial building faces west on N. Howard Street and abuts two partywall structures. The three-part vertical block is one bay wide and four stories high. The street frontage is 17'8" and the depth is 66'.

The first story has been altered. The facade is a glass curtain wall with a recessed entry slightly off center towards the north. The walls around the windows are re-sided with metal sheeting. Panels of black imitation granite tiles run across the facade between the first and second stories. An arched, fabric awning shields the first story.

The second and third stories are unaltered. The second story has a tripartite window centered on the wall. The window consists of a wide central pane flanked by narrower panes. The windows run nearly floor to ceiling, and each is topped by a hinged transom. Silver tape outlines geometric borders around the perimeter of the window and transom glass. Recessed panel pilasters divide the three windows. A recessed I-Beam forms the lintel. Four cast iron rosettes are affixed to the beam for embellishment. Stringcourses separate each story. The stringcourses double as sills for the windows.

The third story has a centered quadripartite window without a transom. Each window is 1/1 sash. Cast iron pilasters separate each window. The I-Beam lintel has five rosettes positioned over each of the pilasters and flanking piers. The silver tape outlines are only present on the first two windows.

A simple projecting cornice sits atop the tall parapet wall. It has projecting eaves supported by scrolled brackets. A dentil course runs below. A pair of larger brackets are situated at the terminal ends.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. B-4344

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	unknown
and/or Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This building, dating to the last quarter of the nineteenth century, is an example of experimentation with the architectural expression of commercial forms. The brick work is simple stretcher bond, laid without projecting piers or pilasters. The cornice is modest in scale and details. The non-ornate aesthetic, however, is tempered by the rosette embellished cast iron I-Beams. These I-Beams show an overt experimentation of using structural members as part of the building design aesthetic. The overall composition also shows experimentation of facade detailings on each floor.

By the close of the century, the large tripartite window on the second story became a hallmark of commercial buildings. This fenestration pattern was a common architectural detail on buildings in the Howard Street district. The smaller quadripartite sash windows on the upper floors reflect these areas' lesser importance, perhaps as light manufacturing or storage.

The height of the building is indicative of aesthetics and land values at the time it was built. Standing four stories tall, it coexisted with five- and three-story buildings on the block. The decision to build high indicates increasing land values in this neighborhood; further north on Howard Street the buildings tend to be two- or three-stories and further south they are four- or five-stories. This four-story building thus stands in a transition zone of economic hierarchies on the length of the street.

The circa 1940s alterations to the first story created a "modern" commercial design aesthetic. The use of traditional materials such as brick and plate glass were combined with fluted aluminum sheets to modernize the appearance of the street-level shop into a floor-to-ceiling display window. This remodelling, no doubt a second remodelling after the turn-of-the-century alterations, represents one of the last periods of commercial vitality on the street. Very little facade remodelling occurred after this decade.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. B-4344

Richard Longstreth, The Buildings of Main Street (Washington: Preservation Press, 1987).

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name Baltimore East Quad

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Diane Shaworganization CHAP, Room 1037 date December 17, 1991street & number 417 E. Fayette Street telephone 301-396-4866city or town Baltimore state MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
301-514-7600

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA****HISTORIC CONTEXT:**

Geographic Organization:  
Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period:  
Industrial-Urban Dominance, 1870-1930  
Modern Period, 1930-present, alterations

Historic Period Themes:  
Architecture  
Economics

Resource Type:  
Building

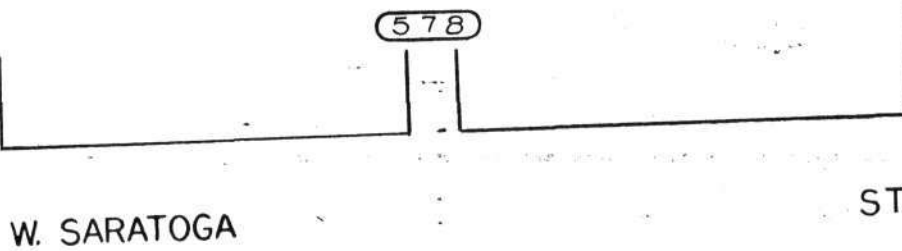
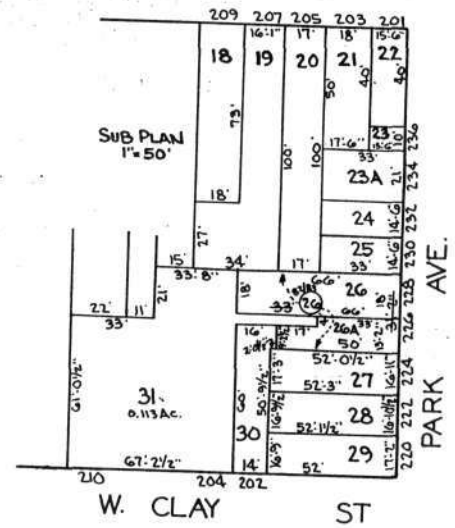
Historic Environment:  
Urban

Historic Function and Use:  
Commercial

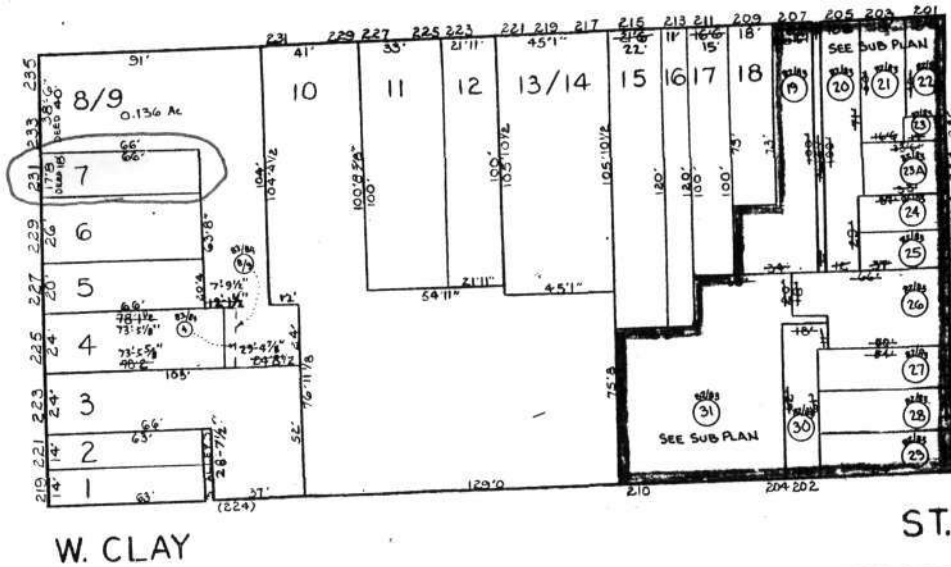
Known Design Source:  
None

## REVISIONS

LOTS 15, 17, 20, & 23A THRU 31 PER DEEDS CH. 54, 83-402 & 83-403  
 LOTS 4 & 8/9 CONS D & DIV PER DEED CH. 84-382



N. HOWARD ST.



PARK AVE.

599

## NOTICE

THIS IS A REAL PROPERTY PLAT AS PROVIDED  
 FOR UNDER ARTICLE 76(d) OF THE CITY CHARTER  
 IT IS COMPILED FROM TITLE AND OTHER  
 SOURCES AND IS NOT AN AUTHENTIC SURVEY.

CITY OF BALTIMORE  
 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

PROPERTY LOCATION DIVISION

WARD 4 SECTION 10  
 BLOCK 597

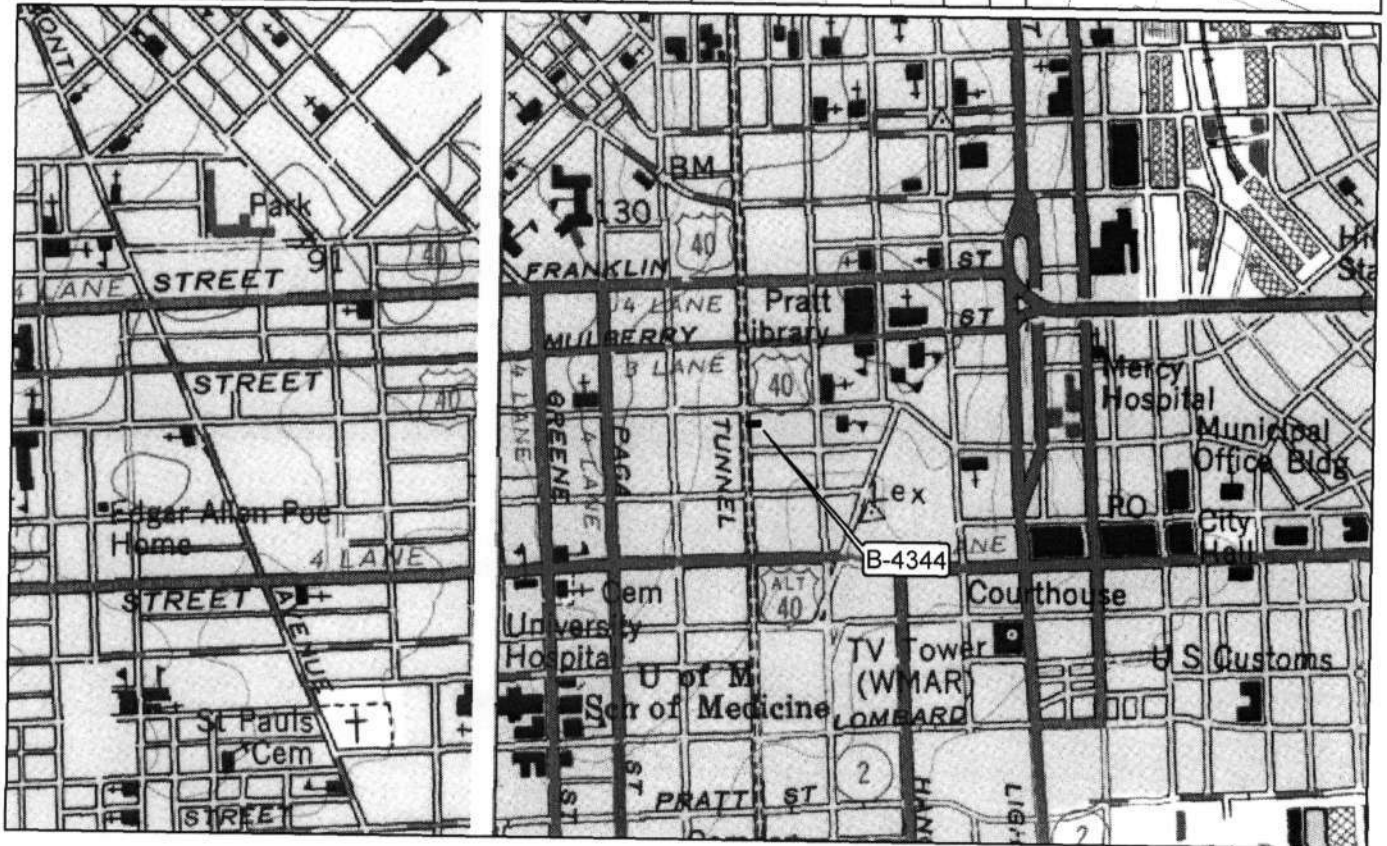
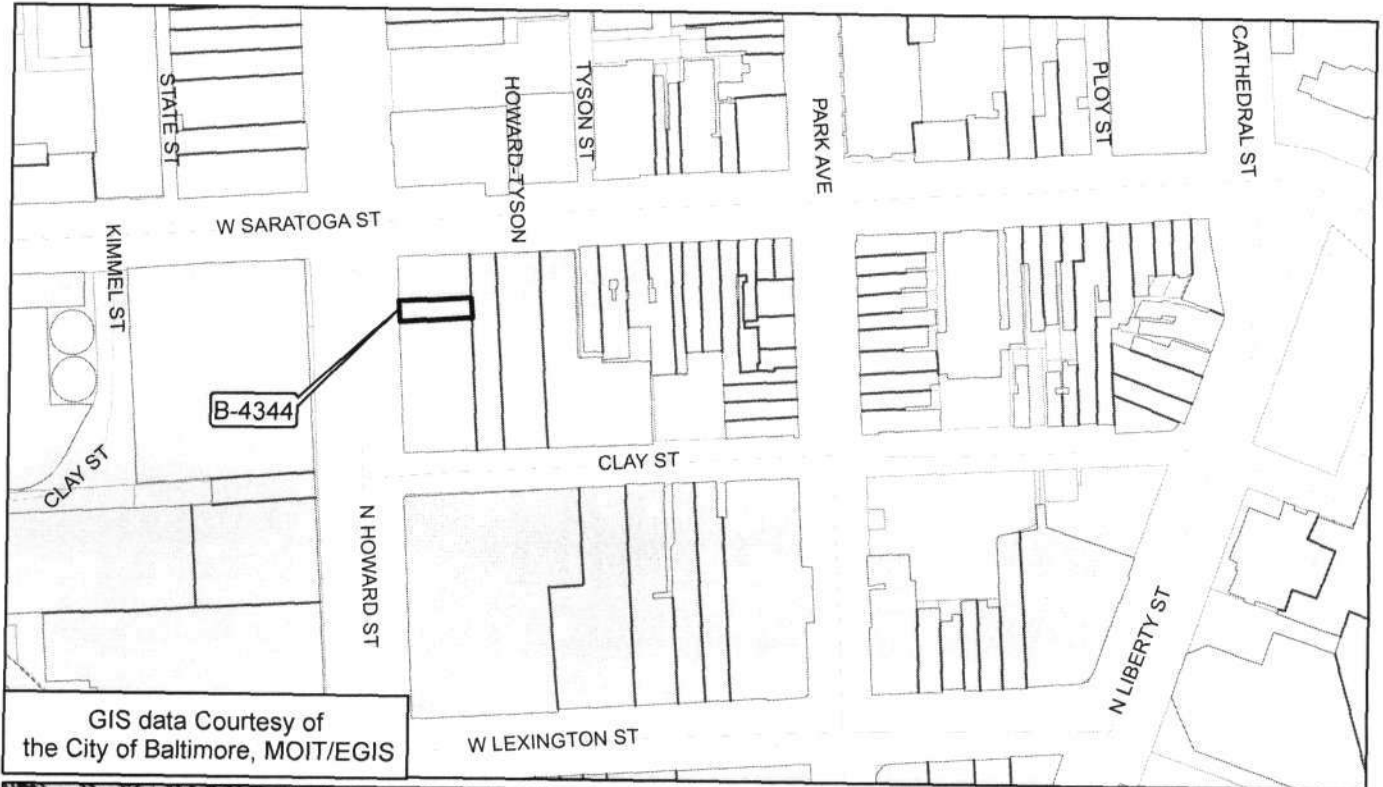
SCALE 1"=50' DATE Nov. 1966

DRAWN BY P.L.W.

CHECKED BY P.L.W.

APPROVED BY

B-4344  
Duke Brothers Shoes (King of Lexington Jewelry)  
231 N. Howard Street  
Block 0597, Lot 007  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.





B-4344

231 N. Howard St.

Baltimore MD

Diane Shaw

8/91

Maryland SHPO

Facade, west elevation

1/1